



Climate Smart Kingston Commission  
420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 481-7339

**Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission April 27, 2016  
Kingston City Hall, Common Council Chambers 4:30-6:00 PM**

**Commission Members (Voting):** Azriel Alleyne, Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong, Michael D'Arcy, Emilie Hauser (excused), Nick Hvodza, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman,

**Commission Members (Non-Voting):**

Nolan Bastianelli, Casey Schwarz (excused), Amanda LaValle (excused)

**Ex-Officio Members:** Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development-excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak, Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Kingston Dept of Public Works (not present)

**Guest:** KC Keegan-Twombly (Kingston Parks & Recreation), Krista Micelli (City of Kingston Parks & Recreation mapping intern)

**I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

**I. Review and Approval March 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion made by Commissioner D'Arcy and seconded by Commissioner Pepper, the minutes to the March meeting were unanimously approved by the voting Commissioners present.

**II. Old Business: Climate Action Plan Recommendations:** The matrix excel spreadsheet sent recently to the Commissioners regarding the Climate Action Plan recommendations was reviewed with no motions made and no resolutions presented.

**III. New Business**

**a. City Initiatives**

**i. Land Use, Transportation**

**1. Midtown Linear Park:** The Chairperson reported that the former U&D rail line from Cornell St. to Kingston Plaza will be a linear park in a coordinated partnership between the City and the County.

**2. Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Update:** After discussion, the commissioners agreed by acclamation to an action item with respect to making recommendations to the zoning committee regarding the zoning code update resulting from the Comprehensive Plan with emphasis on sea level rise and urban agriculture regarding which the Kingston Urban Agriculture Committee will be also preparing recommendations.

**3. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):** Krista reported on the NRI mapping which is now wrapping up. The Chairperson reported that a consultant will be chosen for interpretation and reviewed the data sources for the mapping. Commissioner D'Arcy mentioned that the roof garden at Stuyvesant Building is presently discontinued. The maps are expected to be posted online shortly.

**ii. Renewables**

**1. Solar install at FNC:** The Chairperson reported that new ground mounted solar will be installed at Forsyth Nature Center.

**2. Solar Permitting:** Review of the expedited solar permit and consistency with expedited permits in other NYS communities with Certified Local Governments (CLG) with respect to historic preservation and landmarks commissions was discussed by the Chair and Commissioner McEvoy. Commissioner Courtney Strong discussed a possible NYSEDA \$2500 grant with respect to permits. The Chairperson asked Commissioners

Courtney Strong and D'Arcy to review the draft NYS Unified Solar Permit that the City has been working on. No motions were made and no resolutions were presented.

**3. LED Streetlight Consortium:** Commissioner Courtney Strong discussed making the streetlight purchase price from Central Hudson as well as the conversion to LED advantageous to Kingston taxpayers.

**4. PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing – Energize NY:** Commissioner Courtney Strong discussed loan specifics using PACE for a solar conversion and energy efficiency applicant for her property. PACE provides a mechanism that allows for repayment for energy related building loans as a special tax charge on the property owners tax bill.

**5. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):** Commissioner Broad reported on CCA to allow municipalities to gain control of energy sources to allow same to plan their energy needs. Citizens for Local Power (CLP) will be meeting shortly to discuss next steps in this regard. More information can be found at the CLP website and in the Daily Freeman: <http://www.citizensforlocalpower.com/community-choice--cca-.html>  
<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/general-news/20160426/state-decision-on-energy-buys-draws-praise-from-watchdog-group>

**6. MicroGrid:** Commissioner Courtney Strong reported on discussion with the microgrid consultant from Booz Allen and her analysis that focuses on Health Alliance indicating that this Kingston project may be of interest to third party funding sources.

Booz Allen press release and Daily Freeman article on the grant application are linked here:

<http://investors.boozallen.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=921378>  
<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/article/DF/20150510/NEWS/150519971>

**7. Solar Installations:** Commissioner D'Arcy explained that Grid Alternatives has a Solar Affordable Housing Program and local community workforce development. CDBG funding is being used for energy efficient installations. Commissioner D'Arcy reported on seven new solar installations in environmental justice areas.

### iii. Vehicles

**1. Electric Vehicle Purchase:** Kingston Police Dept is close to purchasing an electric vehicle. An announcement will be made shortly.

**2. Charging Stations:** Group discussion concerning public outreach regarding Ulster County charging stations focused on the possibility of action items including National Drive Electric Week expected to be held September 10-18, 2016. Tax credits at the Federal and upcoming State level were also mentioned. Link to National Drive Electric Week follows:

<https://driveelectricweek.org/>

### iv. Materials Management

**1. Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission:** Julie reported on field trips such as to Seneca Meadows with respect to solid waste management and landfill shipping and capacity. Single stream recycling is not being processed by UCRRA which opens the discussion concerning whether dual stream is more efficient and has more economic benefit. A 'pay to throw' rubbish disposal plan has been looked at but no determination has been made.

**2. Evaluating curbside food waste collection:** Possibility of compost bins was discussed with no motions made and no resolutions presented.

### v. Sustainable Resource Management

**1. Green infrastructure installations:** The Chairperson reported that green infrastructure will be used at the two Uptown parking lots.

**2. Collaboration with Tree Commission:** The Conservation Advisory Council and the Tree Commission held a joint meeting on March 31 to discuss sidewalk trees and tree policy attended by, Simon Gruber, (Environmental Planner CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities a.k.a CISC, Hudson River Watershed Alliance) and George Profous, (DEC Senior Forester).

### vi. Outreach and Education

**1. Earth Expo and Fair:** The Chairperson reported on a recent event on April 23. Events included a green infrastructure tour, community bike ride, yoga sessions, nature walk and music performances. See link: <http://www.kingston-ny.gov/EarthExpo>

**2. Environmental Education Programs and Camp:** The Chairperson reported on the Junior Naturalist Program, a nature camp designed to provide for outdoor and environmental lessons at the Forsyth Nature Center for various age groups with scholarships available. Link can be found here: <http://kingston-ny.gov/environment>

### vii. Climate Adaptation

**1. Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group:** This group will be meeting shortly at a date to be determined.

**b. Community Initiatives**

**i. Land Use, Transportation**

**1. Sidewalk Task Force and Code:** The next meeting of this task force, a subcommittee of the Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Council, is to be held Thursday April 28, 2016 at City Hall Kingston. Kristen Wilson can be contacted for details.

**ii. Renewables**

**1. Solarize Saugerties, event hosting:** Commissioner Wackman reported on the next Solarize Saugerties event to be held Thursday May 19 at Saugerties Senior Center. The installers present will be Lighthouse Installers, for commercial installations and Direct Energy Solar and NY Solar Farm for residential installations. Registration deadline is June 30 and is open to all residents and business owners in Ulster County. Link is below: <http://solarize-hudsonvalley.org/solarize-campaigns/solarize-saugerties/about-saugerties/>

**2. Ten Percent Challenge:** The project goal is to have 984 energy efficient audits performed out of 9844 households in Kingston with 100 households to implement the energy efficiency retrofit. Commissioner D'Arcy reported that 249 residents are presently in the energy efficiency program with 237 the energy efficiency assessments approved, 145 assessments completed and energy efficiency work approved and completed at 27 homes.

**c. Funding Opportunities**

**i. Cleaner, Greener Communities Climate Smart Communities Implementation Grant :** Commissioner Courtney Strong gave an update on the grant application process. More info can be found at the following DEC link. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76910.html>

**ii. Urban Forestry Grant:** No update was reported.

**IV. Announcements/Communications/Events**

**a. Community Bike Ride:** This event is to be Saturday April 30, Kingston Point Beach

**b. Riverkeeper Sweep:** This event to be held Saturday May 7 from 9AM to 12PM , Kingston Point Beach. Link is found below.

<http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/events/rvk-events/5th-annual-riverkeeper-sweep/?gclid=CMebrYLWyMwCFQFkhgod93kB9g>

**c. Repair Café:** Commissioner Wackman reported the next date for the Repair Café in Kingston is May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 3PM Clinton Ave Methodist Church.

**V. Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Commissioner Courtney Strong and seconded by Commissioner D'Arcy, the **voting** Commissioners present unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:04PM. Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 25, 4:30-6:00pm, at Kingston City Hall.

**Vision:** *The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.*